What’s Lymphoma?

Lymphoma is a cancer that affects blood cells called lymphocytes – immune cells that normally protect you from illness. Damage to genes in these cells can sometimes lead to abnormal cell behavior which makes the cells immortal – unable to die when they should – or causes sustained rapid cell division. These malignant cells then may accumulate to form tumors that enlarge the lymph nodes or spread to other areas of the lymphatic system, such as the spleen or bone marrow, or outside the lymphatic system to the skin, or mucosal linings of the stomach.

Symptoms & Risk Factors

While the following symptoms of lymphoma are associated with many benign conditions, anyone experiencing them, especially if persistent or recurring, should be seen by their doctor.

Common Symptoms

- Persistent fevers or chills
- Drenching night sweats
- Painless swelling of lymph nodes
- Persistent skin rashes and itching
- Unexplained fatigue
- Unexplained weight loss

Factors Thought to Increase Risk:

- Chronic infection
- Depressed immunity
- Chemical exposure – pesticides, cancer therapies, herbicides . . .
- Viral exposures
The Burden of Lymphoma

Only 45% of patients with aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphomas will be cured with standard treatments, ... and almost all indolent lymphomas remain incurable, unless diagnosed early and treated with radiotherapy when the disease is localized.

The less-common Hodgkin's lymphoma is curable about 80% of the time.

Each day approximately 170 Americans are diagnosed with lymphoma, and 75 die of the disease.

This year it's estimated that 63,000 individuals will be diagnosed with lymphoma, in the USA, and that 24,000 will die.

Lymphoma is the most commonly occurring blood cancer, and is the third most common childhood cancer.

The incidence rate of individuals diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL) each year has doubled since the 1970s, and has increased 4% annually. NHL is the second fastest rising cancer in incidence and death rates in the United States. [Adapted from SEER 2001]

For details on Lymphoma statistics visit:
www.Lymphomation.org/statistics.htm

Celebrities and Notables Diagnosed with Lymphoma

Paul Azinger - Professional golfer
Laurel Shaffer Bottoms - Author, educator, and founding executive director of Kentucky's Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning
William Casey - Former head of the CIA
Edward E. Crutchfield - Chair man and chief executive of First Union Corp
John Cullen - Professional hockey player
Rich Dambakly - Finished Iron-man USA Lake Placid in July while fighting lymphoma
Gwen Darien - Editor and publisher of MAMM magazine - magazine is for women with breast and ovarian cancer
Jerry Freundlch - While fighting lymphoma, founded the Cure for Lymphoma Foundation.
Andres Galarraga - Baseball player for the Atlanta Braves
Tim Garton - Inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honor Master Swimmer in 1997 was diagnosed with an incurable form of lymphoma in 1991
Dick Gregory - Civil rights activist and comedian
Arte Johnson - Comedian on Laugh-In
Leshon Johnson - Former football player for the NY Giants
Lauren Hart - Singer
King Hussein of Jordan - World leader
Mark James - Former European Ryder Cup captain
Ray Katt - Former Major League catcher.
Saku Koivu - Hockey player and captain of the Montreal Canadiens
Mario Lemieux - Professional hockey player
Charles A. Lindbergh - Famous aviator
Charles Lowe - Actors Rob Lowe's father
Clarence Lightner - Raleigh's first and only black mayor
Larry Lucchino - President of Diego Padres
Louis Malle - Actress Candice Bergen's husband
Jeff MacNelly - Pulitzer Prize-winning "Shoe" cartoonist
Mickey Mantle, Jr. - Son of New York Yankee baseball great
Roger Maris - New York Yankee baseball great
Gabriel Garcia Marquez - Colombian Nobel Prize-winning author
Dave Marshall Jr. - Assistant boys' basketball coach at Royal High
Judith Campos McKeen - Attorney; first woman to serve as president of the Sacramento County Bar Association
Loonis McGlohon - Composer, and entrepreneur
Jackie Kennedy Onassis - Former First Lady of the United States
Judge Jerry R. Parker - Served on the 2nd District Court of Appeal since 1987
Jim Patterson - Former Fresno Mayor
Sister Ida Peterfy - Founded order of nuns
Sarah Pettit - Helped found the nation's largest gay magazine
Bob Pohl - Republican Party's candidate for 35th District Assembly (CA)
Joey Ramone - Musician
Steve Reeves - Former Mr. Universe; actor
Glen S. Rosengarten - Executive; helped develop food supermarket chain Food Emporium.
Dan Rowan - Comedian; known for Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In
Jim Ryan - Republican nominee for Governor of Illinois
Joe Shapiro - Former general counsel for Walt Disney
Cliff Schrock - Sportscaster of British Open
Mr. T (Laurence Tureaud) - Actor
Paul E. Tsongas - Candidate for president of the United States of America
Susan Vreeland - Novelist
Gene Wilder - Comedian; helped found the Gilders club
Marvin Wood - College basketball coach

Our Heroes

The numerous patients & Caregivers who provide encouragement and share what they have learned with others diagnosed with the disease.

Clinical trial participants - All who have enrolled in studies so that progress can be made against the disease!

Jama Beasley - When her dire prognosis was reversed by immunotherapy, she dedicated her time and skills to encouraging and supporting other patients.

Ellen Cohen - While fighting lymphoma, founded the Lymphoma Research Foundation.

Greg Dafoe - Greg has dedicated his time and skills to providing support and inspiration to others with the disease.

Carol Lee - Educator. While fighting lymphoma, she continues to dedicate her time to providing support and inspiration to others with the disease.

Janet Nightengale - While fighting lymphoma, she tirelessly dedicated her time to providing support and inspiration to others with the disease.